

In the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (canceled)

2. (previously presented) A clip for joining a first longitudinal member transversely to a second longitudinal member in a slip joint for operatively permitting displacement between the joined members along the operative disposition of the second member longitudinal axis, the clip comprising:

a base comprising a first surface and an opposing second surface, the first surface consisting of a planar surface adapted for parallel mating engagement with the first member, the base operably fixable to the first member to maintain the parallel mating engagement relationship of the base first surface and the first member; and

a guide depending from the base adapted for operatively slidingly constraining the second member to maintain the transverse disposition of the first and second members during the displacement, the guide comprising opposing arms extending substantially transversely to the base second surface defining a channel that is receivingly engageable with and adaptively substantially spans the second member permitting freedom of movement between the guide and the second member in a sliding relationship during the displacement between the members along the operative disposition of the second member longitudinal axis.

3. (canceled)

4. (original) The clip of claim 2 wherein the opposing arms are selectively spatially disposed to operatively engage the second member web with a selected frictional resistance to the operative sliding engagement.

5. (original) The clip of claim 2 wherein the guide defines an opening in at least one of the arms adapted for admitting a retainer limiting displacement of the guide relative to the second member when an edge of the opening pressingly engages against the retainer.

6. (original) The clip of claim 5 wherein the opening comprises a slotted opening extending substantially along a longitudinal axis of the second member.

7. (original) The clip of claim 2 wherein the first member comprises a medial web and opposing outer flanges defining a cavity, wherein the base substantially laterally spans the cavity.

8. (canceled)

9. (canceled)

10. (canceled)

11. (original) The clip of claim 2 comprising a unitary construction.

12. (previously presented) The clip of claim 2 wherein the base is fixable to the first member by a fastener imparting an attachment force acting substantially parallel with the channel.

13. (previously presented) The clip of claim 5 wherein the guide further comprises an indicia adaptively indicating a nominal position of the retainer.

14. (original) The clip of claim 13 wherein the indicia comprises an alignment mark.

15. (original) The clip of claim 13 wherein the indicia comprises a shaker tab.

16. (currently amended) A clip for joining a first longitudinal member transversely to a second longitudinal member in a slip joint for operatively permitting displacement between the joined members along the operative disposition of the second member longitudinal axis, the first member comprising a planar medial web adjacent one or more transverse flanges and the second member comprising a medial web and one or more outer flanges, the clip comprising:

a base comprising a first surface and an opposing second surface, the first surface consisting of a planar surface adapted for parallel mating engagement with the first member web, the base operably fixable to the first member web to

maintain the parallel mating engagement relationship of the base first surface and the first member web; and

a guide depending from the base providing a channel adapted for operatively slidingly constraining the second member web to maintain the transverse disposition of the first and second members during the displacement along the operative disposition of the second member longitudinal axis, the guide comprising:

a first arm extending substantially transversely from the base proximally adjacent the base second surface; and

a second arm extending from the base substantially in the same direction as the first arm and proximally adjacent the base second surface, the arms comprising bearing surfaces defining opposing sides of the channel to operatively ~~adaptively substantially~~ span the second member and that are selectively spaced apart in relation to the characteristic arrangement of the second member to adaptively permit freedom of movement between the guide and the second member web during the displacement between the members along the operative disposition of the second member longitudinal axis.

17. (canceled)

18. (original) The clip of claim 16 wherein the guide defines an opening in at least one of the arms adapted or admitting a retainer limiting displacement of the guide

relative to the second member when an edge of the opening pressingly engages against the retainer.

19. (original) The clip of claim 18 wherein the opening comprises a slotted opening extending substantially along a longitudinal axis of the second member.

20. (previously presented) The clip of claim 16 wherein the first member web and flanges define a cavity, wherein the base adaptively substantially laterally spans the cavity.

21. (canceled)

22. (original) The clip of claim 16 wherein both of the arms are operatively slidingly engageable against the second member web.

23. (original) The clip of claim 16 wherein one of the arms is operatively slidingly engageable against the second member web and at least a portion of one of the opposing arms is operatively slidingly engageable against at least one of the second member flanges.

24. (original) The clip of claim 16 comprising a unitary construction.

25. (previously presented) The clip of claim 16 wherein the base is fixable to the first member by a fastener imparting an attachment force acting substantially parallel with the arms.

26. (original) A wall framing assembly, comprising:

a first track;

a second track substantially aligned and spatially disposed from the first track;

a plurality of studs interposed between the tracks, each stud comprising a

longitudinal extending medial web portion and one or more longitudinal

extending stiffening flanges between a first end and a second end of the stud;

a clip operatively connecting a selected stud's first end to the first track in a slip joint, the clip comprising:

a base fixed to the first track; and

a guide depending from the base comprising opposing arms defining a

channel receivingly engaging the selected stud's web in a characteristic

operative sliding relationship; and

a fastener connecting the selected stud's second end to the second track.

27. (currently amended) The **clip wall assembly** of claim 26 wherein the base has a planar first surface and an opposing second surface, and wherein the guide opposing arms comprise a first arm extending along a longitudinal axis substantially transverse to the base from a proximal end adjacent the second surface, and a second arm extending away from the base oriented substantially in the same direction as the first arm.

28. (original) The wall assembly of claim 26 wherein the arms are selectively spatially disposed to operatively engage the second member web with a selected frictional resistance to the operative sliding engagement.

29. (original) The wall assembly of claim 26 wherein the guide defines a slotted opening in at least one of the arms extending substantially along a longitudinal axis of the stud.

30. (original) The wall assembly of claim 26 wherein both of the arms are engageable against the web.

31. (previously presented) A wall framing assembly, comprising:
a first track;
a second track substantially aligned and spatially disposed from the first track;
a plurality of studs interposed between the tracks, each stud comprising a longitudinal extending medial web portion and one or more longitudinal extending stiffening flanges between a first end and a second end of the stud;
a clip operatively connecting a selected stud's first end to the first track in a slip joint, the clip comprising:
a base fixed to the first track; and

a guide depending from the base comprising opposing arms, at least one of the arms compressingly engaging the selected stud's web in a characteristic operative sliding relationship; and
a fastener connecting the selected stud's second end to the second track.

32. (currently amended) The **clip wall assembly** of claim 31 wherein the base has a planar first surface and an opposing second surface, and wherein the guide opposing arms comprise a first arm extending along a longitudinal axis substantially transverse to the base from a proximal end adjacent the second surface, and a second arm extending away from the base oriented substantially in the same direction as the first arm.

33. (original) The wall assembly of claim 31 wherein the guide defines a slotted opening in at least one of the arms extending substantially along a longitudinal axis of the stud.

34. (original) The wall assembly of claim 31 wherein both of the arms compressingly engage against the web.

35. (original) A method of framing a wall structure, comprising:
providing a first track;
providing a second track substantially aligned and spatially disposed from the first track;

providing a plurality of studs interposed between the tracks, each stud characterized by a longitudinal extending medial web portion and one or more longitudinal extending stiffening flanges between ends of the stud;

providing a clip for operatively connecting a selected stud's first end to the first track in a slip joint, the clip comprising:

- a base fixable to the first track; and
- a guide depending from the base comprising opposing arms defining channel receivingly engageable with the selected stud's web in a characteristic operative sliding relationship;

engaging the selected stud's first end with the clip;

connecting the clip to the first track with a fastener; and

connecting the selected stud's second end to the second track with a fastener.

36. (original) A method of framing a wall structure, comprising:

providing a first track;

providing a second track substantially aligned and spatially disposed from the first track;

providing a plurality of studs interposed between the tracks, each stud characterized by a longitudinal extending medial web portion and one or more longitudinal extending stiffening flanges between ends of the stud;

providing a clip for operatively connecting a selected stud's first end to the first track in a slip joint, the clip comprising:

- a base fixable to the first track; and

a guide depending from the base comprising opposing arms, at least one of the arms compressingly engageable with the selected stud's web in a characteristic operative sliding relationship;

engaging the selected stud's first end with the clip;

connecting the clip to the first track with a fastener; and

connecting the selected stud's second end to the second track with a fastener.

37. (previously presented) A deflection clip for joining a first longitudinal member transversely to a second longitudinal member in a slip joint for operatively permitting displacement between the joined members along the operative disposition of the second member longitudinal axis, the first member comprising a planar medial web adjacent one or more transverse flanges and the second member comprising a medial web and one or more outer flanges, the clip comprising:

a base comprising a first surface and an opposing second surface, the first surface consisting of a planar surface adapted for parallel mating engagement with the first member web, the base operably fixable to the first member web to maintain the parallel mating engagement relationship of the base first surface and the first member web; and

a guide depending from the base operatively slidably constraining the second member web during displacement between the joined members along the operative disposition of the second member longitudinal axis, the guide comprising:

a first arm extending substantially transverse to the base from a proximal end adjacent the base second surface and comprising a bearing surface adapted to slidingly engage the second member during the displacement between the members; and

a second arm extending from the base oriented substantially in the same direction as the first arm, the second arm comprising a bearing surface adapted to slidingly engage the second member during the displacement between the members, the arms being noncoplanar and spaced apart in a direction transverse to the operative disposition of the second member longitudinal axis and with a selected spacing in relation to the characteristic arrangement of the second member to adaptively permit freedom of movement between the guide and the second member during the displacement between the members along the operative disposition of the second member longitudinal axis.

38. (new) A deflection clip for joining a first member and a second member in a slip joint, the clip comprising:

a planar base plate; and

a guide depending from the base plate comprising:

a first arm extending along a longitudinal axis substantially transverse to the base plate; and

a second arm extending from the base plate oriented substantially in the same direction as the first arm defining a channel interposed laterally between

the arms, the arms being noncoplanar and spaced apart with a selected spacing in relation to the second member to adaptively permit freedom of movement between the guide and the second member during displacement between the members.